

VOL. VIII.

FEBRUARY 18, 1916.

No. 22.

THE CIVILIAN

A FORTNIGHTLY JOURNAL

DEVOTED TO THE INTERESTS
OF THE
CIVIL SERVICE OF CANADA

FEATURES

NATIONAL LOSS.

ROLL OF HONOUR.

SUBSCRIPTIONS TO PATRIOTIC FUND.

MISSING MEN.

PERSONALS.

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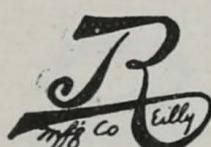
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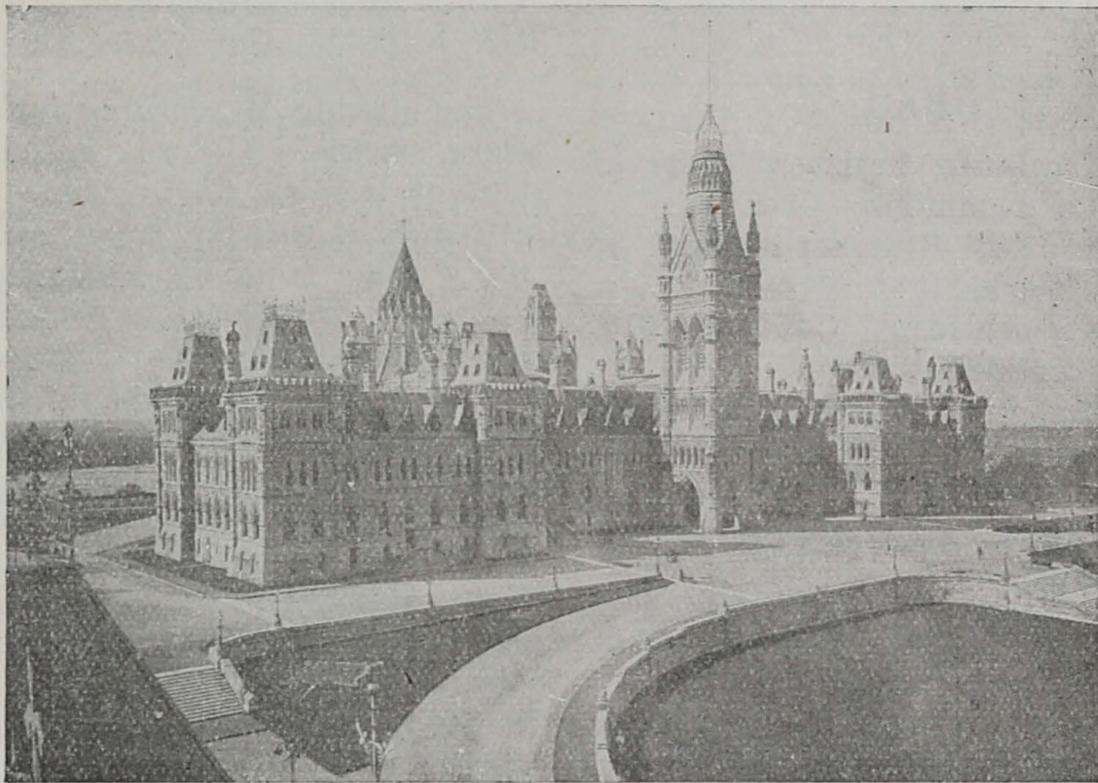
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THE CIVILIAN

VOL. VIII.

FEBRUARY 18, 1916.

No. 22



Centre Block of Parliament Buildings as it appeared before the fire.

A National Loss.

Until the evening of February 3rd, 1916, there stood on Parliament Hill, Ottawa, a magnificent structure, the central dominating building of all those which for a half century have been the home of Canadian federal legislators. There was no more beautiful example of architecture among the public buildings of this continent, and there it promised to stand, a sacred and magnificent edifice for centuries to come.

The House was in session, and apparently all was well, when the dread cry of "Fire" caused immediate pandemonium and was signal for the beginning of the end, and now the commoners—glad to have escaped with their lives, except one—meeting in a modern building, large, but without beauty or historic associations, for Canada's business must go on, mourn for that which is gone,—for the one of themselves who lost his life, the ancient historic mace destroyed, and the assistant clerk of the house among the dead.

In this temporary home they met with all the dignity of the occasion the next day, saddened by the realization of the calamity that had befallen, and Premier and ex-Premier united in tributes of condolence to those who had been bereaved and in touching reference to the stately buildings which had been their home for so many years.

It was also the office home of many civil servants and some of them lost



their lives and many others played the hero in the great efforts of salvage. To them it was truly a home, for had not some of them spent their entire lives of working years within its walls. To-day those who survive mourn their fellows and have themselves taken up the day's routine in unfamiliar places, awaiting the day when the new House shall have risen in its place, facing the four winds of Heaven, and there serenely stand a monument to Canada's progress and unshaken faith in her own destiny.

DEAD.

- J. B. R. Laplante, Assistant Clerk of House of Commons.**
A. Desjardins, Plumber, Dept. of Public Works.
Alphonse Desjardins, Consable, Dominion Police.
R. Fanning, Post Office Department.

* * *

J. B. R. LAPLANTE.

Jean Baptiste Rene Laplante had been Assistant Clerk of the House of Commons since March, 1897. He was born at St. Constant, Laprairie County, Que., on August 19, 1856, the son of Jean Baptiste Laplante, a notary public, and his wife, Marie Angele Poupart. He received his education at Montreal College and at McGill University, where he graduated as Bachelor of Civil Law in 1880.

He practiced law in Montreal and at Valleyfield until 1897. He also engaged in journalism, and from 1888 until 1897 was editor of "Le Progres de Valleyfield."

In 1893 Mr. Laplante married Josephine Lodoiske Larocque, widow of Dr. A. Lesage.

A. DESJARDINS.

Mr. Alphonse Desjardins, 259 Water street, had been an employee of the Public Works Department for the last thirty-five years. During the session he was on duty at night in the House of Commons, superintending the staff of men looking after the work of regulating the heat and lights in the building. It was his business to see that all the lights in the House were extinguished after adjournment every night.

The missing Mr. Desjardins was 55 years of age. He was an old resident of Ottawa, having lived in the city since it was By Town. He originally came from St. Eustache, Que. He was a brother of ex-Ald. Desjardins, Mr. Ovila Desjardins of the Public Works Department, and Joseph Desjardins, Eastview, father of Dominion Policeman Desjardins, also missing. He also had two sisters in Ottawa, Madame L. Charbonneau, Water street, and Madame Z. Bellanger, Besserer street; his wife and two sons, Mr. Horace Desjardins and Mr. Lucien Desjardins of the Printing Bureau.

ALPHONSE DESJARDINS.

Dominion Policeman Alphonse Desjardins, nephew of the other man of the same name, also missing, was well known in Ottawa. He was the son of Mr. Joseph Desjardins, Eastview, a brother of Alphonse Desjardins, and had himself been a resident of Eastview for some time. He was twenty-seven years of age and married, with three children. He had been connected with the Dominion police force here for the last five years.

RANDOLPH W. FANNING.

Randolph W. Fanning, who was one of the three men caught beneath the falling masonry on Thursday night, has been a resident of Ottawa for the past six years.

Mr. Fanning came here from Devonshire, England, and was first employed at Rideau Hall. On leaving there he was on the staff of the House of Commons for two years and was later on the Post Office staff.

He was about thirty years of age

and is survived by a widow and two young children, the oldest of these, a boy, being three years, and the other, a girl of one year.

On Thursday evening Mr. Fanning left home to go to the Carnegie Library on Parliament Hill, and knowing almost everyone connected with the buildings, he went there to render whatever aid he could in the way of rescue. He was pinned under the falling masonry together with the two Desjardins and must have met almost instant death.

The last man to see him alive was Mr. Harman, and at that time, just before the tower fell, Fanning and the Desjardins were holding a line of hose and attempting to extinguish the flames in that part of the building.

FIRE HONOUR ROLL.

Dr. T. B. Flint, clerk of the House of Commons, did a brave thing. After the Chamber had been cleared and the members and officials had run to safety the Doctor took a last chance at saving a beloved manuscript over which he had spent much time and care.

It was the M.S.S. of a new edition of Bourinot's Parliamentary Practice which he is revising and editing so as to bring it up to date.

Dr. Flint managed to get them out of his room, the only salvage he was able to make, but it was a valuable one. He was assisted out and down the stairs by a Government policeman. He was taken to his residence and suffered somewhat during the night from the effects, but is quite recovered again.

Mr. C. F. Colwell, whose room in the House is No. 111, and located upstairs, had great difficulty in making his escape, but again, owing to the promptness with which the policemen acted, a ladder was secured, and with his assistant, Mr. Crossley Sherwood, he made his way down to safety.

Mr. A. E. Horton, clerk of sessional papers, had a narrow escape *in saving the Speaker's scrolls and the records.*

"I was in the journal office on the gallery floor when the bells started to ring. I hurried to the tower room to get some of the papers and then back to the journal room. I took only a few seconds to gather up the papers I knew to be of value and crammed them into my pocket."

With the exception of a slight cut in his hand he was uninjured.

Mr. George Simpson, of the Hansard staff, was the official reporter on the floor of the House when the fire broke out. He did not leave until Mr. Rhodes, the Deputy Speaker, and Mr. Loggie, who had the floor, left the Chamber.

He saved his notes from possible burning by placing them under his coat and dashed for the Hansard room. With his ammanuensis he went to the Russell House, there transcribed his shorthand notes and sent the report to the Printing Bureau.

Dr. J. K. Foran, who is the law officer of the House of Commons, had a thrilling race for life. He was in his room until after the fire had made such headway that escape seemed impossible. His thorough knowledge of the intricacies of the corridors enabled him to reach the west wing where he descended to the ground floor and got out.

Mr. Walter Hill, steward to Deputy Speaker Rhodes, was badly injured in leaving the main building after the flames had enveloped the place. "I heard a shout in the corridor, and, opening the door, smoke poured in and I could see a man leaning up against the wall of the corridor. I think it was Mr. J. B. R. Laplante. I got him in and closed the door but the room had already been partly filled with smoke. I tried to revive him with water and he recovered. The lights went out and I realized that the only way out was by the window. The apartments are on

the gallery floor and I got a curtain from the window to make a rope of. I asked him to go down, that I would hold it, but he refused. Then I asked him to hold it for me, and putting it once around the coils, he held the end and I began to crawl down. When I came to the end, I dropped. I must have gone 25 feet, falling on my back on the ice. I was picked up in a semi-conscious condition and kept telling the men who were helping me, 'There is a man in No. 107; get him.' I was taken to the hospital and they tell me I kept shouting for half the night, 'There is a man in No. 107.' That was the number of the apartment."

Wilfrid Larose, of the Hanasard Translators' staff, was on the upper floor of Parliament building. He could not come down by the inside stairs, so thick was the smoke at that moment. He called for the firemen's ladder through one of the windows and came to the ground by that means. Had a very narrow escape.

Mr. Pigeon stated that he was called by 'phone and went to the burning building about 10.30. There he found one of the clerks, Mr. MacCormac, on duty. Two messengers, Messrs. Argue and Micklejohn, were sitting with their overcoats and hats on, they having locked the door leading to the House of Commons. He secured the petty cash, amounting to some \$60, then went into the cellar below to the housekeepers' quarters. At this point all the lights went out, and he had to grope his way by means of a wax candle.

Thomas Wensley, chief engineer, stuck to his post to the very last in order to have the boilers fixed so that there would not be an explosion. In the honour roll with him must be mentioned four of his assistants, John Reeves, John McKee, John Hennessy and E. Gardiepy.

Mr. C. George, the steward at the House of Commons, and his family had a narrow escape. All their house-

hold effects are gone. Mr. George was assisting in the trailing of the hose, when Messrs. Desjardins were killed. That his life is saved was miraculous.

WAR PERSONALS.

D. E. Lothian, of the Outside Division of the Department of Agriculture, who went overseas as private in an infantry battalion, has been given a commission in the Seaforth Highlanders of the British army. He was wounded at St. Julien.

Philip S. Conroy, of the Post Office Department, has been given a commission in the 5th Battalion, C.E.F. He enlisted as a private, but soon became a sergeant in the 2nd Battalion. Before the war he was in the 43rd Regiment, and had been a musketry instructor.

Captain F. H. Maynard, 125th India Rifles, son of M. W. Maynard, of the Department of Railways and Canals, who was wounded in Mesopotamia, has been removed to India. He has wounds in the head and in both legs.

Lieut. Frank McGee is now in a convalescent home in Wales.

Sergt. W. G. Hazlett, 21st Battalion, C.E.F., is coming home to take up instruction duty. He is a clerk in the Department of the Secretary of State.

Lieut. Frank Grierson, Canadian Field Artillery, is to command the new 53rd Battery of the Canadian Expeditionary Force, with the rank of captain. The new C.O. is on the staff of the Finance Department and a leader in all Civil Service organizations and activities in Ottawa. He is Secretary of the Civil Service Federation of Canada and chairman of *The Civilian Committee*.

Twenty-seven and a half millions of dollars were paid as fire insurance premiums in Canada in 1914.

The Roll of Honour.

FORTIETH LIST.

- H. J. Gobb, Customs, Moosejaw, 128th Battalion, C.E.F.
 G. S. Geoghegan, Customs, London, 142nd Battalion, C.E.F.
 H. R. Gregory, Customs, St. Catharines, 81st Battalion, C.E.F.
 R. E. V. Jobb, Customs, Toronto, 136th Battalion, C.E.F.
 C. H. Keating, Customs, Halifax, 66th Regiment.
 Lieut. G. O. Kemp, Customs Dept., Ottawa, 130th Battalion, C.E.F.
 J. W. Lorimer, Customs, Victoria, B.C., 88th Regiment.
 R. D. Purser, Customs, Wallaceburg, Canadian Army Cycle Corps.
 J. W. Watts, Customs, Toronto, Imperial A. S. Corps, Mechanical Transport.
 Harry Wooster, Customs, London, 135th Battalion, C.E.F.
 T. L. Brennan, Customs, North Sydney, Aviation Corps.
 Corp. T. H. Robinson, Customs, Halifax, C.A.M.C., No. 7 Stationary Hospital.
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 Alex. Masson, Letter Carrier, Lethbridge, 39th Battery, C.F.A., C.E.F.
 Geo. Masson, Letter Carrier, Lethbridge, 39th Battery, C.F.A., C.E.F.
 Reg. Matthews, Letter Carrier, Lethbridge, 39th Battery, C.F.A., C.E.F.
 Wm. Geo. Moore, Letter Carrier, Winnipeg.
 Thomas Morris, Letter Carrier, Winnipeg.
 Alfred Wallace McAllister, Letter Carrier, Toronto.
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 Neil McVicar, Letter Carrier, Lethbridge, 39th Battery, C.F.A., C.E.F.
 John Naylor, Post Office, Toronto.
 Jonas Graham Padley, Letter Carrier, Winnipeg.
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 John Smith, Letter Carrier, Winnipeg.
 Edward Soady, Post Office, Lethbridge, 82nd Battalion, C.E.F.
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 John Hastings, Post Office, Renfrew.
 F. E. Petch, Post Office, Victoria, B.C., 102nd Battalion, C.E.F.
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 F. W. Armstrong, Railway Mail Clerk, Halifax.
 A. O'Brien, Railway Mail Clerk, Halifax.
 J. J. Doyle, Railway Mail Clerk, Quebec.
 J. R. Laurier, Railway Mail Clerk, C.A.M.C., No. 4 Stationary Hospital.
 A. H. Horton, Railway Mail Clerk, Toronto.
 F. J. Lee, Railway Mail Clerk, Toronto.
 J. H. Landerkin, Railway Mail Clerk, Toronto.
 L. R. Menzies, Railway Mail Clerk, Toronto.
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 M. Munro, Railway Mail Clerk, London.
 S. G. Scott, Railway Mail Clerk, Winnipeg.
 H. K. Davis, Railway Mail Clerk, Winnipeg.
 W. B. Wells, Railway Mail Clerk, Winnipeg.
 C. J. Crane, Railway Mail Clerk, Moosejaw.
 G. Mallan, Railway Mail Clerk, Moosejaw.
 J. H. Menzies, Railway Mail Clerk, Vancouver.
 E. Kitson, Railway Mail Clerk, London.
 I. H. Glasgow, Railway Mail Clerk, Winnipeg.
 C. A. Hislop, Supt. Ry. Mail Service, Moosejaw.
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THE CIVILIAN

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THE CIVILIAN, P. O. Box 484, Ottawa.

Ottawa, Feb. 18, 1916.

THE NATIONAL DUTY.

"From the best information which I could obtain in Britain last summer it does not seem that the war is now more than half over."

—Sir Robert Borden.

"All mere party considerations dwindle into insignificance compared with the great issues and consequences involved in the war."

—Sir Robert Borden.

"Empire! Who speaks of Empire to-day? It is civilization which is at stake."

Sir Wilfrid Laurier.

"If Germany wins, nothing else on God's earth matters."

Sir Wilfrid Laurier.

*I went, the first time, for my King.
I am going back this time for the
women and children of my acquaintance.*

—Sergt.-Major Eccles, 119th Batt.

OUR BOYS

Previously reported:

Dead	42
Wounded	74
Prisoners	7

WOUNDED.

W. A. NEALE.

DUTY WELL DONE.

"Well done, good and faithful servants" would be a fitting expression from the Government to the public servants whose duties lay in the buildings which were burned on the night of February 3rd. There was not a man among them that might not have assured his own safety had self been his only thought. But each man seemed to see his duty first that night. Many plunged through smoke-filled corridors and into pitch-dark rooms to rescue public records; others faced the flames with hose and extinguishers; others again laboured to salvage priceless paintings and historic objects until their own escape was all but cut off. And some there were in whom the call to service overcame all too well the voice of caution. For these men the public mourns. In their memory the leaders in parliament have voiced unstinted praise and full appreciation of their sacrifice. The names of J. B. R. Laplante, Randolph Fanning, A. Desjardins and Alphonse Desjardins adorn a new Roll of Honour in the annals of the Canadian public service.

AN OLD HOME GONE.

Among all the millions of Canadians who mourn the loss of the stately edifice which for more than

half a century crowned Parliament Hill, none experience a deeper grief than the older civil servants who are identified with the House and Senate staffs. Some of these men knew the old structure from the days before Confederation until it met its fiery fate. Every room and corridor, every office, every stained-glass window, every bit of wood and stone carving in all the elaborate and beautifully-adorned place was as an old and dear friend to them. Parliaments and their members came and went, governments changed and parties ascended and descended the path to power, but these public servants remained and grew old with the building in which they served their country. It was a home to them. No wonder bitter tears fell from many an eye when the old clock faltered in the tolling of midnight and went down into the red ruins below!

WONDER WORKERS.

The Department of Public Works is often accused of being slow in carrying out orders committed to it for execution, but the emergency created by the great fire demonstrated what that department is capable of accomplishing when necessity arises. The speed with which the Museum building was stripped of its ordinary contents and converted into a home for parliament was amazing. Within twenty-four hours from the outbreak of the fire the Commons met in new and comfortable quarters. In a few days the parliamentary offices were accommodated and the postal, telegraph, press and other auxiliaries re-established. Within a week the members and senators were provided with private rooms; committee, smoking and reading rooms were supplied; both Houses were at work and all the wheels of government were turn-

ing without friction. Such little events as the location of the Senate in the "Hall of Invertebrate Fossils" but added a saving spice of humor to the trying period of transition. J. B. Hunter, Deputy Minister of Public Works, established his own office, temporarily, in the Museum building and, with John Shearer, superintendent of buildings, other departmental officials and hundreds of workmen wrought hourly wonders until the great and unanticipated task was accomplished.

THE ROLL OF HONOUR.

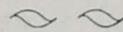
With the fortieth instalment of the Roll of Honour, published in this issue, the total of announced enlistments of civil employees of the Government of Canada exceeds sixteen hundred. It is a record which justifies some pride, but *The Civilian* makes no boast, believing that the enrollment should, and will, exceed this number by many hundreds. The published list does not cover all enlistments to date and new enlistments are occurring every day.

In connection with the Roll it should be remembered that it does not include the hundreds of men from the Canadian Government Railways who have donned the khaki. These gallant fellows have a roll of their own, published from time to time in the *Canadian Government Railway Employees' Magazine* of Moncton, N.B.

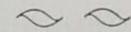
It may also be noted, lest any reader may misunderstand, that the names which have, on one or two occasions, been repeated in the Roll of Honour lists, are not counted twice in computing the total. Careful deductions are made of all such duplications.

Once again the editors urge upon all readers the duty they owe to fellow civil servants at the front in seeing that their names are properly re-

corded in the roll, with place of residence, corps and other important details,—also that *casualties are* promptly reported. Remember this,—the Roll of Honour is *the only record* of enlistments of civil servants for overseas duty in this war, and that the records of "Our Boys" and "Our Killed and Wounded" are also the only lists of their character being kept up in Canada. *Help to keep these records complete and up-to-date.*



A contributor to this issue of *The Civilian* deals in striking style with the work of the Civil Service Savings and Loan Society, which he not inappropriately calls "Patriotic Fund No. 1." As he points out, solvency in domestic affairs is essential to the success of foreign enterprise. This applies to individuals as well as to communities and to states. For nearly eight years the Savings and Loan Society has been helping the men and women of the Service who were threatened with financial misfortune. The value of the work to the beneficiaries cannot be measured in dollars and cents. The society is rapidly extending its field of operations and needs to have increased funds at its disposal in order to provide for this expansion. It pays a high interest on deposits and good dividends on its stock. Its record for successful management cannot be beaten. The society offers civil servants an unusual opportunity for saving money and helping their fellows at the same time.



An inventor claims to have perfected an apparatus for discerning the color of the human aura. An energetic person gives a red record, a melancholy person shows a violet tint,—and so on. Imagine the sickly yellow that would emanate from a "slacker"!

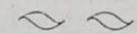


Some slackers give, as their reason for not enlisting, their dis-

taste for certain corps or services or their dislike for certain officers. There is a vast difference between a reason and an excuse, and such a plea is hardly even an excuse. There are a hundred battalions recruiting in Canada to-day and any decent man can find a place in the one that pleases him best. Any pusillanimous shirker will find better men than himself in any corps under the colors.



The annual report of the Post Office Department Mutual Benefit Association which was given, in condensed form, in the last issue of *The Civilian*, and that of the Civil Service Mutual Benefit Association, which will be summarized in next issue, are both highly creditable to these organizations. Both societies were called into existence by crying need. Every old civil servant can remember cases of hardship to the widows and children of government employees who had not been able to carry life insurance, and other cases where positive suffering arose through delayed payment of insurance claims. When death calls the bread-winner away, there is always need of *immediate* funds. This need these societies meet. There is no waiting for wills or certificates,—no red tape of any kind. The member is dead.—the amount of his policy is paid. That is all. The day of death is very often the day of payment. A dollar in the hour of need is worth ten dollars in a tied-up estate.



Twenty-five per cent of his salary for a year was one civil servant's subscription to the Patriotic Fund. That he is one of the better-paid officials takes nothing from the generosity of the gift, for no man has so much money that he cannot find use for more. The subscription was a splendid one both in proportion and in amount. The subscriber is a man of most liberal and patriotic spirit, and the Civil Service may be proud to have him in its ranks.

Subscriptions to the Patriotic Fund.

The following statement of subscriptions received to date from the Public Service at Ottawa, showing the total by Departments, and in some cases by Branches, will be of interest to the Service; it is still incomplete, but supplementary returns will be announced as received. This statement covers the whole Service, the Inside as well as the Outside, the temporary as well as the permanent Service, the day workers and the sessional employees.

No attempt is made to analyze the figures, for, when it is realized that every employee of the Dominion Government in Ottawa or whose headquarters are at Ottawa was given an opportunity to subscribe, such appears unnecessary. In Bulletin No. 1, issued December 30th, 1915, the Executive expressed "the confident belief that with the facts before them all civil servants will contribute as generously as their means will permit," and it is now evident that this belief was fully justified.

Several Departments or Branches, for reasons which appealed to them, sent their returns direct to the local committee. These are so noted in the statement.

To all who assisted in the campaign, as well as to the accountants and their staffs for whom much work remains, the Management Committee wishes to express their hearty thanks; to these, however, as to the individual subscribers, the consciousness of a duty well done will be, as it ever is, its own best reward.

Department.	Total subscribed.
Agriculture	\$ 7,409 05
Archives	1,456 00
Auditor General's Office	2,503 50
Civil Service Commission	461 00
Commission of Conservation	923 88
Customs	6,961 00
Customs, Port of Ottawa	689 76
External Affairs	535 00
Finance (returns made direct)	1,400 00
Governor General's Secretary's Office	181 92
House of Commons	4,995 70
Indian Affairs	1,971 00
Inland Revenue (including Outside Service)	2,104 40
Insurance	1,389 00
Interior	24,035 75
International Joint Commission	50 00
Justice	1,588 88
Justice, Supreme Court	637 00
Justice, Exchequer Court	249 00
Justice, Dominion Police (incomplete)	2,000 00
Labour	845 00
Library of Parliament	468 00
Marine	4,322 62
Military Hospitals Commission	126 00
Militia and Defence	17,082 06
Mines (including Geological Survey)	6,161 12

Naval Service	4,302	50
Post Office (Department)	12,561	95
Post Office (City)	1,200	00
Post Office (P.O.I. and staff)	450	00
Railway Mail Service (approximately)	1,075	00
Privy Council	922	00
Public Printing and Stationery (returns made direct)	9,351	00
Public Works (including all Outside employees and \$3,100.00 from Mr. Shearer's staff)	15,953	52
Railways and Canals (including Transcontinental Railway Commission and Rideau Canal)	4,236	72
Railway Commission	1,709	88
Royal Mint (returns made direct)		
R.N.W.M. Police	628	60
Secretary of State	1,463	16
Senate	1,010	52
Trade and Commerce	2,704	40
War Purchasing Commission	333	20
 Total.....	\$147,374	19

J. C. O'CONNOR,
Secretary,
The Civil Service Association of Ottawa.

GENEROUS CIVIL SERVANTS.

The Secretary of the Civil Service Federation of Canada wishes to give credit to the members of the following branches and departments of the Outside Service throughout the Dominion for the contributions now on record, but which have not before been published. If there are any others who are making any contributions through local funds, it is hoped that a report of all such will be sent in, so that the Federation may have a record of them all.

Customs, Port of Montreal, \$1,800; Railway Mail Service, Montreal, \$1,279; Marine and Fisheries, various agencies, \$2,449.08; Trade and Commerce, Petrolea, Toronto and Quebec, \$167.00; Penitentiaries, St. Vincent de Paul, \$1,804.04; Saskatchewan, \$671.97; Alberta, \$125.00 per month; Stoney Mountain, \$882.77; Transcontinental Railway Commissioners' staff, Quebec, \$43 per month during period of employment; Railway Mail Service, St. John, \$567.00;

Toronto, \$864.50; London, \$1,154.52; Moose Jaw, \$300.00; Calgary, \$1,196.13; Vancouver, \$756.82.

BOX 484.

Ottawa, Feb. 15, 1916.

A PLEASANT PRESENTATION.

(Contributed)

Civil servants are wont to speak disparagingly at times of the monotony of a Civil Service career, but there are bright spots that are often overlooked and which go to furnish some of the compensations of a life given to the Crown. One of these bright spots was the occasion of a presentation, on the 10th instant, in the office of Mr. E. J. Lemaire, superintendent of the postage stamp branch, Post Office Department, of a handsome clock to Miss F. M. Farrell on the eve of her marriage to Mr. Herbert S. MacMillan, of the Auditor General's Department. Mr. Lemaire made the presentation in a speech that was really a gem, the

subject matter being such as to call forth frequent applause. Amongst other things the speaker referred to the hope of the branch that with the consistency of the gum used on our postage stamps Miss Farrell would have "stuck," and yet he was not surprised, the chief wonder being that so fair a flower in nature's garden had not been plucked before. Mr. Lemaire voiced the general regret at the severance of the tie which had bound the recipient to the postage stamp branch, between whom and every member there had always been the most pleasant relations, and for whom he hoped the clock would tick off many, many hours and years of health and happiness in the days to come. In acknowledging the gift, Miss Farrell, with the well known feminine instinct, remarked that the affair was "so sudden" she could not find words to express her feelings, but, nevertheless, she succeeded in making a very spicy speech full of thanks and good-will. The clock—an eight-day Seth Thomas in mahogany case from Birks—bore an appropriate plate with the inscription "Miss F. M. Farrell from THE Branch."

The presentation proved a most pleasant event to those concerned, the concensus of opinion being when all had dispersed that the poet spoke truly who said "There's nothing half so sweet in life as love's young dream."

OUR DEAD AND WOUNDED.

PRIVATE W. A. NEALE.

Information is received that Private W. A. Neale, an employee of the Immigration Branch, was wounded in action some time ago. Private Neale is a Winnipeg man and a recruit of the 106th Regiment. He went overseas with the First Division.

DR. S. E. DAWSON DEAD.

Samuel Edward Dawson, C.M.G., Lit.D., LL.D., F.R.S.C., for sixteen years Queen's and King's Printer under the Dominion Government, died in Montreal on February 9th.

Dr. Dawson was born in Halifax in 1833 and conducted a commercial printing business for forty years before entering the public service. When, in 1891, he succeeded Lieut.-Col. Brown Chamberlain as deputy head of the Department of Public Printing and Stationery, the Printing Bureau had been established only three years and was but a small institution as compared with the great business which it became during his term of office.

Though all the years of his active life were filled with business cares, Dr. Dawson found time to produce many varied and noteworthy literary works. On historical and national topics his works include "The

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English Minority in the Province of Quebec," "The Problems of Greater Britain," "Canada and Newfoundland," "The St. Lawrence Basin," and many others. His "Study of Lord Tennyson's Poem, 'The Princess'" is a masterpiece of literary analysis and won for him a place of honour among critics. Many articles from his pen are to be found in the Transactions of the Royal Society of Canada, of which he was for many years a Fellow.

Dr. Dawson was one of the most distinguished men among "the old guard" of the Canadian Civil Service.

THE LATE J. B. R. LAPLANTE.

The leader of the Government and the leader of the Opposition joined in praise of Mr. Laplante, clerk assistant of the House of Commons, whose death in the Parliament Buildings fire was one of the sad tragedies of that terrible catastrophe. Said Sir Robert Borden, Prime Minister:

"It is not too much to say that the House of Commons never had a more capable, more industrious or more faithful officer. I am sure that members on both sides of the House will join in expressing also the deepest sympathy to the family and friends of Mr. Laplante. His death is an almost irreparable loss to the effective organization and work of the House."

Sir Wilfrid Laurier, leader of the Opposition, said:

"We had at the table an officer who had been for very nearly 20 years a faithful servant of the House of Commons, a man whose courtesy, ability, activity and kindness every member had learned to appreciate."

Wide indeed is the variety of talents and aptitudes called for by the Canadian Civil Service, but none, probably, more curious than those required for the proper discharge of

the duties of clerk assistant of the House of Commons. Besides his main work of record-making and assisting in keeping regular all the proceedings of the House, he is called upon to perform a feat of memory of which many people would be quite incapable. In a division in the House the members' votes are recorded by the clerk as each stands in his place to declare himself "yea" or "nay" on the question before the chair. But as each member rises his name must be called by the clerk assistant. To become so familiar with the faces and names of 220 men as to be able to fit the name to each face unhesitatingly and with certainty is no small achievement. And when, in a general election, perhaps a hundred new members appear, and a vote may take place within a day or two of the opening of Parliament, the clerk assistant must do some pretty rapid mental photography and careful memorization to be able to place every name correctly. In this work Mr. Laplante was wonderfully successful. He never hesitated, and very rarely did he miscall a name. He was many times congratulated on his performance of his unique and trying task.

A GREAT "MOVING-DAY."

The offices of the two legislative departments, the Senate and the House of Commons, are still wondering how they got into their present quarters in the Victoria Memorial Museum, and many of the officers of the Geological Survey have been hustled out so quickly that they are somewhat dazed at the change. The movement is still in progress at this writing, and anything like a full account of where the present officers are to be found will have to await a more complete settlement.

A mere summary of the officers who have been moved out of the Mu-

seum building into new quarters and those who have been moved in will give some idea of the tremendous work performed by the officials and workmen of the Public Works Department in the course of one week.

Generally speaking, the staff of the Victoria Memorial Museum, those in charge of the exhibits and engaged in the study of the specimens, have been left where they were. These number about sixty-five. The officers having to do with the administrative work of the Geological Survey, numbering about 110, have been given offices in buildings on the Wellington street property bought by the Government recently as a site for the proposed new administrative block. It will doubtless be most inconvenient to administer the branch with the offices and divided by such a long distance, but the fire could not but mean congestion and confusion in some branches of the Service, and it happens that the Geological Survey staff is the one called upon to bear the brunt of the difficulty.

On the other hand, two whole departments had to be moved into the museum building and given the accommodation there that their special work calls for.

In the first place, there are about 220 members of the House of Commons and over 80 members of the Senate. The first need was to afford these legislators places in which to hold their deliberations. But no organization is complete without offices in which to work as well as talk. Members of the cabinet must have rooms in which their secretaries can work and in which deputations can wait upon them and consultations can be held. Members must have rooms in which to carry on their correspondence and other work in connection with legislation.

To make and keep the multifarious records of Parliament, and to furnish the supplies and render the ser-

vices necessary for the proper running of a machine as big as the Parliament of Canada, calls for a very considerable staff.

Thirty-two rooms have been allotted to the Senate and eighty-four to the House of Commons. These rooms are nearly all merely temporary and makeshift affairs, made by putting up walls of studding and Beaver board to divide the great halls in which, until the time of the fire, the national history specimens were displayed. These exhibits are stored, for the most part, in the western wing of the building.

At first the proposal was to use the museum building as a legislative centre only for the present session, and to prepare the unfinished customs building on Sussex street for several sessions to come pending the reconstruction of the burned edifice. But examination has shown that the destruction is not nearly so complete as was at one time thought, and the belief is growing that Parliament will stay where it is until it can move back to its home on Parliament Hill.

THE TEST ROLL.

In the office of the Clerk of the House of Commons, before the fire, there was a good safe, and in it were stored many valuable documents, including those known as the Test Rolls. These are the declarations of office signed by every member of the House of Commons before he is allowed to take his seat. But the Test Roll for the present Parliament was not in the safe, being in use at the time the fire took place. To lose it would be to break the file, nor could it be replaced as some of those who signed it have passed away. Mr. R. P. King, chief clerk of Votes and Proceedings, whose fine work of illuminating and penmanship has been relied upon by the House of Com-

mons for years in the preparation of such documents as the Test Rolls, and who has charge, under the Clerk of the House, of many valuable books and papers, went to the ruins on Friday and got to work on the ice with a crowbar. He soon saw a corner of the well-remembered volume, and succeeded in digging it out entire. He dried it out, and had the satisfaction of finding that, while the binding is ruined and will have to be replaced, the leaves are entire and the signatures are still quite legible. The file of the Test Rolls from Confederation is thus preserved intact.

NEW CLERK ASSISTANT OF THE HOUSE.

Mr. Arthur Beauchesne, K.C., has been appointed to succeed the late J. B. R. Laplante as Clerk Assistant of the House of Commons. He began life as a journalist, and for several sessions represented Le Journal of Montreal in the Press Gallery at Ottawa. Later he practised law in Montreal, making an enviable name for himself at the bar. He accepted an appointment in the Department of Justice as representative of Quebec and the Maritime Provinces in the Claims Branch. His experience is exactly of the kind to fit him for his new position, and this with his perfect knowledge of both official languages and his attractive personal qualities will make him a most efficient officer.

HAMILTON LEADS.

The Hamilton branch of the Canadian Red Cross Society is said to be making \$500 a week out of collections of rags, rubber and waste-paper. In Ottawa, rags have not yet been commandeered for patriotic purposes, but the Daughters of the

Empire are able to spend several hundred dollars additional each month on prisoners of war and invalid soldiers relief because of the success of their paper and rubber collections. Every citizen can help in this noble work without cost or inconvenience, and customers of the Civil Service grocery and meat shops may have collected materials removed from their houses by the delivery rigs.

No man in the world ever attempted to wrong another without being injured in return,—someway, somehow, sometime. The only weapon of offence that Nature seems to recognize is the boomerang.—*Jordan.*



Royal Naval College of Canada.

THE next examination for the entry of Naval Cadets will be held at the examination centres of the Civil Service Commission in May, 1916; successful candidates joining the College on or about 1st August. Applications for entry will be received up to 15th April by the Secretary, Civil Service Commission, Ottawa, from whom blank entry forms can now be obtained.

Candidates for the examination in May next must be between the ages of fourteen and sixteen on the 1st July, 1916.

The scheme of training at the College is based on that in force in the English Naval Colleges at Osborne and Dartmouth, but it is not compulsory for cadets to follow a Naval Career when they have completed the course, which lasts three years. McGill and Toronto Universities allow the College course to count as one year at the Science School. The Admiralty will take a maximum of 8 cadets annually into the Royal Navy, where the pay and prospects would be identical with that of cadets who have passed into the Navy from Osborne and Dartmouth.

Further details can be obtained on application to the undersigned.

G. J. DESBARATS,
Deputy Minister of the Naval Service.

Department of the Naval Service,

Ottawa, January 11th, 1916.

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CIVIL SERVICE PATRIOTIC FUND NO. I.

(Contributed)

It has been said charity should begin at home. Possibly the same holds true for loyalty and patriotism; for if one is not loyal to the home and to the institutions near at hand it is at least doubtful if much permanent fervour can be expected for the more impersonal and further removed institutions. That, however, is not the main point at present, and need not be pursued further. The main thing, as indicated above, is what may be called "Civil Service Patriotic Fund No. I."

It has been intimated recently that civil servants at Ottawa subscribed approximately \$140,000 to the Patriotic Fund, which, unless the context should require a contrary interpretation, will be herein referred to as the "Civil Service Patriotic Fund No. II,"—"Fund No. II," for short. This was indeed a truly noble thing, a well earned tribute to the C. S. Association, and probably a personal tribute to some of the leading executive officers. But that is not the main point: it is "Fund No. I."

Years before the Civil Service subscribed its \$140,000, it established and has since administered with absolute success a fund which may truly be called the "Civil Service Patriotic Fund No. I,"—viz., the Civil Service Savings and Loan Society. Readers of *The Civilian* already know something of this society, but perhaps few quite realize the real service which it renders. Since its organization in 1908 the society has possibly assisted civil servants to the extent of nearly \$140,000. True, the money was only loaned and the borrowers paid it back with interest, but the benefit is none the less real,—greater, indeed, than a free gift. So successful has been the administration that, to date, the society is not out one cent on

account of either principal or interest, which says much also for the borrowers.

The cash statement for the last three months will give some idea of the volume of business done.

RECEIPTS.

Shares purchased	\$ 980 56
Deposits made	887 90
Loans repaid	4,414 52
Total receipts	\$6,287 98

DISBURSEMENTS.

Shares withdrawn	\$ 240 00
Deposits withdrawn	1,678 08
Loans made	4,596 63
Total disbursements	\$6,514 71

Although during the three months over \$6,500 was paid out, including over \$1,900 for shares and deposits withdrawn,—no member had to wait one day for either shares or deposits; and some individual items withdrawn were as high as \$330. Add to this the fact that interest is allowed on deposits at the rate of 4% for every day the money is left with the society, and that dividends on shares have so far been at 5% per annum, and you will have some idea of the service being rendered. With more funds a greater number of civil servants can be benefited. The society could use to good advantage, say \$1,400 more, that is 1% of the amount subscribed to "Patriotic Fund No. II." While it is a noble thing to subscribe to "Fund No. II," don't forget "Fund No. I." It is not at all unlikely that money will be loaned out of "Fund No. I" in order to tide over some of those who have so generously poured their treasure into "Fund No. II." Therefore by contributing to "Patriotic Fund No. I" you will benefit "Fund No. II," and your money will be yours when you want it, with interest.

The manager, Mr. F. S. James, may be seen daily, after 5 o'clock, at the office of the Auditor General in the Journal Building.

MISSING MEN.

The Civilian has record of a number of civil servants who have been reported in casualty lists as "missing" and concerning whom no further news has been received. Information regarding these men is much desired. Anyone who knows anything about them will confer a favour by communicating with the editors at once. The "missing" men include:

L. R. P. Harvey, mail transfer agent, Moosejaw, with Essex Regiment, has been wounded.

Georges P. Huguet, Public Works, Ottawa, 2nd Colonial Infantry, French Army, seen to fall wounded or killed in action last November.

J. A. Meunier, railway mail clerk, Winnipeg, French army.

Bertram Smith, mail transfer agent, Winnipeg.

E. Van Scopel, letter carrier, Calgary.

Richard Williams, railway mail clerk, Moosejaw.

John Hastings, postal clerk, Renfrew.

PRISONERS OF WAR IN TURKEY

The Canadian Government has received notice from London that the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs has been informed by the United States Ambassador that the Turkish Government desire that in future remittances of money not exceeding five pounds from private persons for British prisoners of war in Turkey should be despatched to the International Red Cross Committee at Geneva for transmission to the Ottoman Red Crescent Society at Constantinople, by whom

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payment to the recipients will be effected and a receipt returned to the International Committee at Geneva.

Letters and parcels should also be sent to the International Red Cross Committee at Geneva for transmission. Such letters and parcels are post free. Money should be remitted by International Money Order, which can be obtained at any Post Office, and which should be made payable to the International Red Cross Committee at Geneva and sent on with full name, number and regiment of the prisoner of war to whom the money is to be paid.

Information has also been received from the United States Ambassador that prisoners of war in Turkey are now allowed to write only one letter a week limited to four lines and that this regulation applies also to letters addressed to them. Letters of greater length will not be delivered.

Personals.

General.

The marriage was celebrated at Newington church, Folkestone, on Feb. 2, of Lieut. Charles Heathcote Graham, Ottawa, of the Second Divisional Train, to Miss Dorothy Buckwell. The bride's father, who is vicar of the parish, performed the ceremony. Major F. McKean acted as best man, while many Canadian officers were present, including General and Mrs. Steele and General and Mrs. MacDougall. The bride was secretary of the Beechborough Park hospital.

Lt. Graham before the war was in the Public Works Department. He took the Army Service Corps provisional school course here about a year ago and went over with the 2nd Divisional Train last spring.

Sergt. William Hazlett, of Ottawa, whose home is in this city, and who is now in France with the 21st Battalion, is leaving shortly for Kingston to take the position of instructor at the School of Signalling. Sergt. Hazlett gave up his position as a clerk in the Department of Secretary of State when war was declared to go to the front.

L. J. McNamara, customs collector at Walkerton, Ont., is a disappointed man. He visited the recruiting offices and enlisted as a private, having had no previous military training. Unfortunately the medical examiner turned him down on account of a defect in his eyesight and a slight deafness in one ear.

However, his example stands, and much as he was respected before, his popularity with the citizens has increased.

The many friends of Mr. Rémi Tremblay, Translation Branch, House of Commons, will be pleased to learn that he has just returned home from the hospital and is rapidly recovering after a successful operation.

Major Charles A. Young, C.A.M.C., son of John C. Young, of the Senate staff, was married at Pictou, N.S., on February 9th to Myrtle, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Grattan of that place.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles E. D. Chubbuck announce the engagement of their daughter, Madge Rainsford, to Mr. Norman Douglas Johnston, of the Department of Trade and Commerce, eldest son of Dr. and Mrs. G. F. Johnston, "Sylvancrest," Westmount, Que. The marriage will take place quietly on Tuesday, February 22.

Francis L. Cauley, of the Department of Customs, was married in St. Paul's Roman Catholic church on February 2nd to Miss A. E. Glenn of Aylmer.

Lieutenant Charles Heathcote Graham, of the Second Divisional Train, C.A.S.C., was married in Newington church, Folkestone, on February 2nd, to Dorothy Buckwell. The bride is the daughter of the vicar of the parish and the ceremony was performed by her father. Lieutenant Graham is a draughtsman in the Department of Public Works.

Obituary.

The death occurred at St. Lin des Laurentides, Que., on January 21st, of Mr. Basile Terrien, father of J. G. Terrien, Translation Branch, House of Commons. The deceased was 72 years of age and has suffered a long illness. At the funeral, held on the 24th, the Translation Branch was represented by Mr. Marius Lachaine.

Charles Rodrigue, who died in Ottawa on February 11th, aged seventy-two years, was the father of L. J. Rodrigue and J. E. Rodrigue of the Printing Bureau.

Annie C. Forbes, wife of Captain Allan Finlayson, of the Department of Marine and Fisheries and mother of George F. Finlayson of the Department of Finance, died at the family residence in Charlottetown on January 19th after a short illness.

Michael F. Kane, an employee of the

Ottawa post office, passed away on January 30th after an illness of three months.

Lieut.-Colonel J. Pennington Macpherson, who died in Ottawa on February 9th, was for many years a civil servant, but retired from the government employ some time ago. Colonel Macpherson was a man of many parts,—a distinguished graduate in law of Queen's University, a qualified militia officer in infantry, artillery and engineer branches, and the author of a biography of Sir John Macdonald (his uncle) and of military and economic works. He commanded the Governor General's Foot Guards, was an A.D.C. to Lord Stanley and twice a member of Wimbledon teams. His widow, five daughters and two sons (both at the front) survive.

Athletics.

Lieut. Jack Lewis of the Engineers, who recently won commendation for his part in the capture of a Hun aeroplane crew, was a star on the McGill football team a year or two ago.

A number of Ottawa athletes are with the 25th Battery, C.F.A., which recently crossed the channel to France. Among them are Harry Broadbent, Leth Graham, Howard Bourne and Cecil Dewar.

Percy Lesueur, hockey star, is going to the front with the Toronto Highlanders.

The Riverside Boxing Club of Toronto furnished sixty recruits to the Sportsmen's Battalion.

New athletes with the Sportsmen's Battalion include Lou Marsh, Gordon Bricker, Bob Dibble and E. Knott.

Athletes in khaki have had lots of sport this winter. Several battalions and batteries have had excellent hockey teams in the O.H.A. and other leagues, while bowling and basketball teams of soldiers are playing in several cities.

The Civil Service List for 1915 contains more than fifteen thousand names.

WAR DON'TS.

Don't throw your newspaper or magazine in the waste basket. Drop it into an I.O.D.E. collection box as you go down the street.

Don't spend money on amusement without thought as to where the profits go. Many of the best public entertainments give all or part of their proceeds to patriotic funds. These deserve your special support.

Don't fail to let the slacker know what you think of him.

Don't criticize the extravagance of others if you are not practicing economy yourself.

Don't get panicky over "spies" and bombs." If you know anything of such dangers, tell the police.

Don't forget that WE ARE AT WAR.

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(From "Canada," London.)

A member of the London staff of the Canadian Emigration Office on active service writes from the front:

"We all talk of what we shall do when we get back. My present wish is to be thrown into a bathroom, have my clothes burnt, stop in bath and read a daily paper right through, and then sit on a decent chair and look at a meal being got ready and a CLOTH laid to eat it on—oh! what a dream! Don't think, though, I could remain still and see it done. The food desired is a real joint of beef—sirloin—with a good undercut; and one thing is certain, none of us will ever again look upon stew, and there WOULD be some trouble if bully is ever hidden in any grub provided."

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THE POSTAL JOURNAL

VOL. I.

FEBRUARY 18, 1916

No. 10

*Edited under the auspices of
The Postal Clerks' Association of the Dominion of Canada.*

Executive Board of the Postal Clerks' Association.

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The Association Aims.

1. To obtain for all Post Office clerks one day in each week for a day of rest.
2. To impress upon the Government our desire that eight hours shall constitute a day's work, such eight hours to be completed within twelve hours and to consist of not more than two attendances.
3. That seven hours constitute a day's work between the hours of 10 p.m. and 7 a.m.
4. To obtain time off for all overtime worked or payment in lieu thereof.
5. To secure equal conditions for all Post Office clerks, whether employed in semi-staff or city offices.
6. To abolish, by any and every means in its power, the patronage system, at the same time bringing all possible pressure to bear upon the Government in order to obtain the adoption of the merit system throughout the entire Civil Service.
7. To secure, as a reward for merit and long and faithful service, the higher positions in the Postal Service, knowing that such positions can be filled more advantageously from the rank and file of the service than by the appointment of individuals having no knowledge of Postal work.
8. To stimulate and foster organization among Post Office clerks, believing, as we do, that by this method only is it possible to obtain justice at the hands of the Department and equal rights for all.

All correspondence, matter for publication, etc., should be addressed to the Editor,
A. Venables, Calgary, Alberta.

Mr. W. D. Weedon, Moose Jaw, has resigned from the office of Vice-President for the Province of Saskatchewan, and in accordance with a nomination made by the Moose Jaw Branch, and approved by the President, the vacancy has been filled by Mr. H. S. Bell.

NOTES BY THE WAY.

Here is one case which will show the members of the association that it is worth their while to lend their support to the movement. Five members of the Vancouver staff, Messrs. Hardwicke, Clucas, Brown, Crofts and Knapton passed the

Civil Service examination in May, 1912, and in the ordinary course of events should have been appointed to the permanent staff in the month following. For some reason which has never been satisfactorily explained, they did not receive their appointments until January, 1913. The association took the matter up, and after a somewhat lengthy correspondence, intimation was received that these men would be given promotion to the next higher class in July, 1915, instead of having to wait until they reached the maximum of their class in January, 1916. These promotions have now been consummated, and if any clerk would like to learn

the benefits of being a member of the association he has only to make enquiry of the above-mentioned clerks. How much the promotion may eventually mean will be apparent to anyone who has read the item in a recent number of *The Civilian* regarding the future policy of the Department in respect to promotions and increases. Writing to one of our members from "Somewhere in France," Mr. Hardwicke, now a sergeant in the Canadian Army Dental Corps, says in part: "It was good of you to let me hear the cheerful news so quickly. I can tell you I am very pleased to know I have assumed my rating, and, although it may be late, I am certainly thankful for what I have received. Will you please convey to the committee my thanks for their successful efforts."

On the fighting line one of our 'boys' remembers what the association has accomplished, and is grateful. It is for those who remain to show that they also are alive to the needs of the moment by lending to their committees and officers all the support they can.

* * *

Extract from Form 42-A. Enquiry for missing mail matter:

Question 18:—Evidence of posting.

Answer of applicant: "I have no real evidence; only my own word."

* * *

Periodically, whenever there is a Departmental Examination about to be held, we find men in heated argument over the interpretation of some regulation or another. This would lead one to think that it might easily be possible for the authorities to make some of their orders a little clearer than they do. A striking example of this was before us recently. What disposition should be made of a letter weighing $1\frac{3}{8}$ oz., and having a two cent stamp upon it. Now it is contended that this letter has been paid as being under the ounce but that the war tax has been omitted. Therefore the letter cannot be sent forward until the tax is paid. However, on the other hand, it is declared that previous to April, 1915, a letter for delivery in Canada could be sent forward providing it had at least one stamp upon it. Further, that any stamp may be used for war tax or for postage. Cannot it therefore be reasoned that this two cent stamp is part war tax and part postage, and consequently the letter would go forward.

* * *

We were gratified to hear from Montreal recently that their association was inter-

ested in our organization and was looking towards us. We can assure the staff of the Montreal office that we shall ever be ready to help them come a little closer and join hands with an association that is monthly growing bigger and stronger. Don't wait and hang back to be the last, Montreal.

* * *

When Mr. Samuel relinquished the position of Postmaster General of the United Kingdom recently, the postal clerks' organization made it quite plain to the Premier that they could see nothing but trouble ahead if Mr. Hobhouse received the portfolio which he had previously held for a short period. Mr. Pease has been appointed Postmaster General of the United Kingdom.

* * *

Very quietly, without any big type or glaring tributes, we find Mr. F. Grierson is in khaki on active service. As Secretary-Treasurer of the Civil Service Federation and as an Editor of *The Civilian*, Mr. Grierson must have devoted a large amount of time to the cause of an organized Civil Service. Without knowing a great deal about Federation affairs at the Capital, we believe that he will surely be greatly missed. Those outside men who have come into contact with him through correspondence will and already have missed him considerably. Hats off, the P.C.A., to Mr. Grierson.

* * *

The city of Calgary has recently written the Government on the question of the city post office. It would appear that the lease has run out on the temporary building which has now been in use for over three years, and the fire and building inspectors' departments of the city want to know what's what. The present structure evidently conforms with neither of these good people's requirements. We're not surprised. However, we shall be surprised if their writing to Ottawa makes very much difference. Nevertheless, we very much hope that it does.

* * *

It has come to the attention of the officers of this association that one of our branches has, up to the present, failed to receive a reply to a letter of enquiry directed to the Department. Even in the event of the Department being unable to furnish the desired information, an acknowledgment would only have been courteous. Every effort will be made to ascertain the reason for this unusual behaviour.

DUTY.

The splendid article in *The Civilian* of January 21st showed that the Outside Service of the Post Office Department was in the van of enlistments from the Civil Service.

This is no mean honour, and if we desire to continue in this leading position we must not let the grass grow under our feet. There is little doubt, however, that recruiting from this source has been dropping off considerably and the reason for it is, we think, fairly obvious. Just so soon as the Department clearly defines its position, there is little doubt that we shall see many more of our fellow workers joining the colours. If the Department is satisfied that enough men have been drawn from the Post Office ranks, all well and good, but if these new battalions have to be raised up throughout the country, the Department will find that it is necessary for it to set the country an example by removing all such obstacles from the paths of our men as there are at present existing.

Looking from the point of active service, we now turn to the point of those who have no intention of leaving their homes, at present at any rate, for good and sufficient reason, and we find that there appear to be a number of our boys who do not yet realize their responsibilities in this direction.

We say appear not, because it is impossible for anyone of us to judge his neighbor on this or on any other matter. Nevertheless, it seems strange that in some of our offices we have some men subscribing a day's pay regularly every month to our patriotic funds while others are content to donate less than half that amount, or something-once-in-a-while and in other cases nothing whatever. As we say it is not for us to judge, all we ask is that every individual look deep down into his own conscience and ask himself whether he is satisfied with the part he is doing during this, our nation's greatest crisis.

CORRESPONDENCE.

(Note.—No responsibility is accepted for matter appearing under this heading.)

The Postal Journal,
Calgary.

Gentlemen,—

I wonder whether any of our members have ever noticed the extraordinary efficiency that apparently prevails in the Money Order Branch of one of the larger

Eastern offices. It is quite easy to imagine that a swarm of clerks, several multi-graphs and a number of typewriters are kept constantly busy informing city postmasters, inspectors or the superintendent at Ottawa that such and such a thing has occurred and that if the clerk at fault will look up page this and section that he will find that he made a mistake. Sometimes these notices arrive direct at the office at which the error was made and sometimes they arrive via Ottawa.

We wonder whether this is a practise that every office is intended to pursue or whether this one office is in a class by itself or again whether it is found necessary to keep otherwise idle hands busy. Trusting that you will find room to publish this, and wishing you every success, I remain,

Fraternally yours,
GUILTY M. O. CLERK.

BRANCH NOTES.**Moose Jaw.**

On the 15th January the much looked for visit to Regina was accomplished, and of course it is needless to say that we had a royal time.

Arriving at the Capital City at 7.30 p.m. we were met by a committee and escorted to the post office where thirty minutes or so were spent in looking over the office and making the acquaintance of those boys who were unable to visit us at the time the Regina Branch came up. Regina certainly have some office. The part that made all Moose Jaw boys jealous was their association room. We are not so fortunate as to have one yet, but we are living in hopes.

About 8 o'clock we all adjourned to the Kitchener hotel, where a very enjoyable banquet was served. **SOME BANQUET, BELIEVE US.**

After satisfying the inner man, toasts and speeches were the order of the evening. Several matters of importance and of the good and welfare of the association were brought up.

It's a pity that more offices are not so favourably placed as we are, as there is no doubt that a lot of good could be done by visiting one another. Things crop up at these meetings that, were we writing, would never be thought of; besides which, there is no doubt that they help keep up the interest in the association and let people know that we are something more than a name. A great pity it is that the idea was not broached long ago. Anyway, it's never too late to mend, and there is no doubt that the other branches will hear

more as time goes on of Regina and Moose Jaw.

Prince Albert.

By the time this goes to press, the examinations will be over in this office—seems more like a college than a post office. Studious expressions are on every face, each candidate digging something or other up from the Guide which were never heard of before. It's surprising the wisdom gained in things postal about the time of an examination, but the boys are beginning to view with suspicion the examinations, because the raise in pay has not come along lately.

The Whist Club at this office has hit a streak of bad luck lately, but they give the promise of better things when they get a chance to arrange the cards.

The burning question here is, "Why a certain member of the staff makes a point of arriving twenty minutes ahead of his usual time each morning lately?" Various solutions were advanced, but Jack Oliver's seems most likely. Jack says, "It's the usual result of married life, but then—we should worry."

Edmonton.

The Edmonton Branch held their second whist drive and dance of the season on Wednesday, January 19th, 1916. Over one hundred guests attended this most successful affair. The post office orchestra furnished the music and their services were appreciated to the full as signified by the large number of encores.

The earlier part of the evening was spent in the playing of whist, and the winners of the prizes were:

Ladies—1st prize, Miss Mason; 2nd prize, Mrs. Appleby; booby, Mrs. Cousens.

Gent's—1st prize, Mr. P. J. Forrest; 2nd prize, Mr. J. Ganner; booby, Mr. F. W. Phelan.

Refreshments were then served, afterwards dancing held sway during the remainder of the evening.

It is the intention of the Entertainment Committee to hold an event of this nature each month during the winter.

Port Arthur.

The annual meeting of the above Branch of this association was held Monday, January 17th, with a good attendance. The following officers were elected for the coming year, all offices receiving a change: President—Mr. E. S. Snookes.

Vice-President—Mr. W. R. Tulford.

Secretary-Treasurer—Mr. E. F. Goodman.

Mr. H. D. Rourke, a member of our association, joined the 94th Overseas Battalion, now training here, on January 1st or thereabouts.

Calgary.

The Executive Committee, for several reasons, decided to postpone the regular monthly meeting of this Branch for one week. The meeting is expected to be of more than ordinary interest and a report of same will appear in the next issue.

After an extended leave of absence, Miss McGarry is to be seen at her machine once again. Her Eastern trip appears to have done her a world of good.

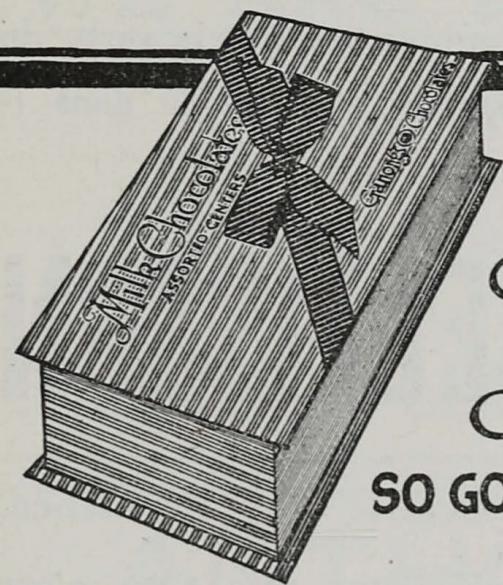
We're all watching with keen interest, Rowley. Stay with it, you're doing fine.

Vancouver.

In order to give our members a chance to recover from the Christmas and New Year festivities (?) the January meeting was postponed for a week. The business was mostly of a routine character. A vote of confidence in the committee administering the War Fund was passed. Considerable dissatisfaction was expressed with the publication in the "Journal" under the heading of Vancouver Notes of matter which had not been submitted by the association. A letter of explanation was read by the chairman of the "Journal" committee, who also stated that he hoped to have the matter put right at an early date.

After the business meeting, refreshments were served, and an auction sale of valuable (?) articles was held, "Doc" Allen officiating as auctioneer. Each article was carefully 'boxed' from view and the bidding was sometimes very spirited. Our typewriter tapper broke all records by bidding for a large box, which was found to contain only a collar stud. His face was a study to behold. Speeches were made by Lieut. B. Salmon, 158th D.C.O.R., and by R. W. Longworth, and musical selections were rendered by Messrs. Holden and Williamson. The proceedings closed with cheers for our worthy President, "Doc" Allen, who so generously donated the refreshments.

When the R.M.S. "Niagara" recently arrived in port she anchored in the stream while the mail was being brought ashore by tender. We noticed that our mail officer made the outgoing trip all right, climbing the rope ladder in real sailor fashion. His return journey was vastly different. He must have imagined himself a package of foreign matter, for he was lowered in the net to the tender by the ship's winches. We are curious to know why, and if the mail officer was not "charged" on the ship's way-bill was he "charged" on the ship?



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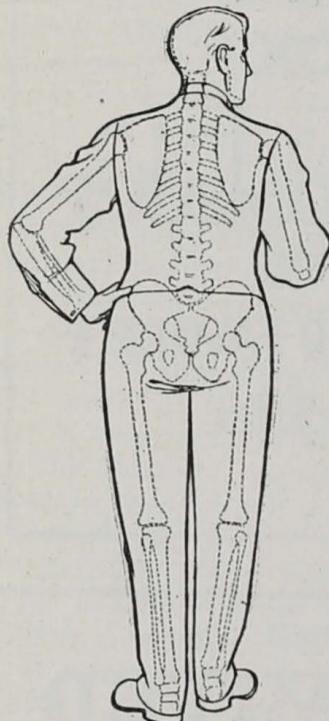
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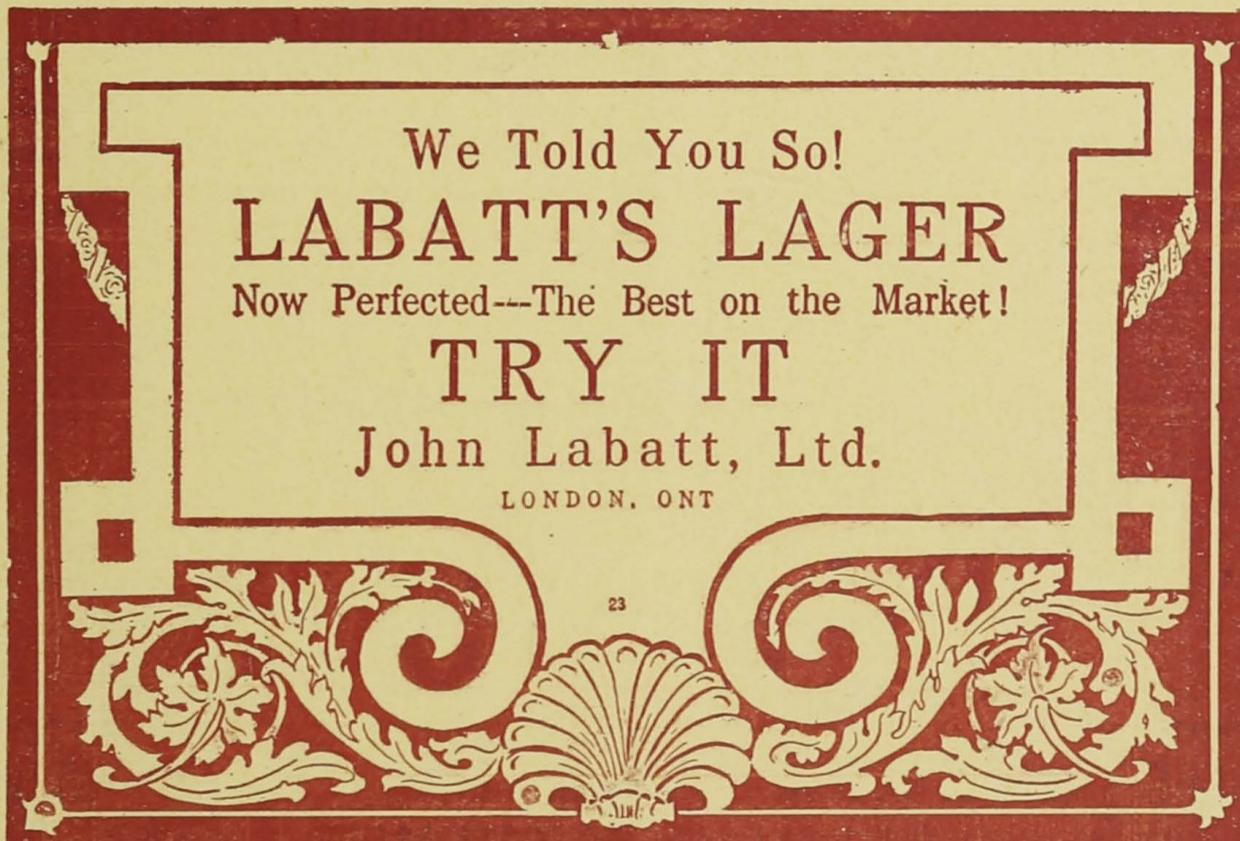
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